



NAVY NEWS



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Forward ... from the Sea

May 4, 2001

Enterprise CVBG Commences Training at Vieques

By 2nd Fleet Public Affairs

NORFOLK, Va. (NNS) — U.S. Navy ships and aircraft, including units of the USS *Enterprise* (CVN 65) Carrier Battle Group en route to the Mediterranean, recently commenced essential combat training in the outer ranges of the Puerto Rico Operating Area and the Vieques Inner Range.

Scheduled to conclude this week, the training will include ship-to-shore gunnery as well as air-to-ground bombing exercises at the Vieques Inner Range.

All ordnance fired from ships and aircraft onto the Vieques Inner Range will be non-explosive. This training is

required to certify naval gunnery crews in the use of five-inch guns, critical to combat readiness, and to complete other requirements not met in previous training exercises due to the unavailability of the Vieques Range Complex. This type and quality of training cannot be accomplished anywhere else.

Units of the USS *Enterprise* Battle Group departed their respective homeports Wednesday, April 25th.

Vieques remains the sole location in the Atlantic where naval units can qualify in



USS *Enterprise* (CVN 65) and its airwing (CVW 3).
Photo by Photographer's Mate 3rd Class Timothy Smith.

Naval Surface Fire Support (NSFS) and conduct the combined arms training

required prior to deploying to areas of potential hostilities in support of U.S. foreign policy.

USS *Greeneville* Collision Report Released

By U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii (NNS) — The report on the February 9 USS *Greeneville* (SSN 772) collision with the Japanese fishing training vessel *Ehime Maru* was released last week by the commander of the Pacific Fleet. With the report's release, Adm. Thomas B. Fargo announced the causes of the accident and held accountable the submarine's commanding officer and several members of the crew.

A court of inquiry was convened in March to investigate the accident. The court of inquiry produced a comprehensive and detailed investigation report that was presented to Adm. Fargo on April 13. The report included findings of fact, opinions and

recommendations. With enclosures, the report was approximately 2,000 pages.

Adm. Fargo identified two fundamental causes for the accident. An inadequate acoustic and visual search was conducted by the ship in preparation for surfacing and the ship's watch team failed to work together and pass information to each other about the surface contact picture.

"The commanding officer, USS *Greeneville*, created an artificial sense of urgency in preparation for surfacing on 9 February when prudent seamanship, the safety of his submarine and good judgment dictated otherwise," Adm. Fargo told a news conference at Naval Submarine Base, Pearl Harbor.

"This tragic accident could and should have been avoided by simply following existing Navy standards and procedures in bringing submarines to the surface."

The ship's commanding officer at the time of the accident, Cmdr. Scott D. Waddle, appeared before Adm. Fargo on April 23 at admiral's mast. Waddle was charged with dereliction in the performance of his duties and the negligent hazarding of a vessel. He received a punitive letter of reprimand and was directed to forfeit one-half his pay for two months. The forfeiture was suspended for six months. Adm. Fargo also directed that Waddle be detached "for

cause" from his previous duties as commanding officer. Waddle had been temporarily reassigned pending the outcome of the investigation.

The officer of the deck (OOD) at the time of the accident, Lt. j.g. Michael J. Coen, also appeared at admiral's mast before Adm. Fargo on Monday and was counseled on the proper performance of his OOD duties.

Other *Greeneville* crewmembers whose actions were questioned in the wake of the accident include the ship's executive officer, chief of the boat, sonar supervisor

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Don't Let Ecstasy Be Your Agony

By Journalist 1st Class Joseph Gunder, Navy Wire Service

WASHINGTON (NNS) — In the Navy, a lack of situational awareness can be deadly. Some over-the-counter medicines (cough medicines, painkillers) can decrease the edge military personnel need to tread the line between life and death. A drowsy hull technician working on a metal press could have a finger or two crushed. A boatswain's mate on a ship's forecastle might not be paying attention to the color of the anchor chain paying out of the locker, or turn the friction brake in the wrong direction, with disastrous results.

You get the idea. If an over-the-counter medication could perhaps lead to these kinds of situations, imagine what a mind-altering drug like ecstasy could lead to. It has no accepted medicinal use for treatment in the United States. And it's illegal.

Ecstasy is a synthetic amphetamine drug, related chemically to methamphetamine compounds. It's also known by the street names "E," "X," and "XTC." It is often referred to as a "club drug" because it has been sold in nightclubs and rave parties. It's misperceived as a "safe drug" without the side effects of other rave drugs such as LSD, methamphetamines, heroin or PCP.

Ecstasy comes in pill form, about the size of an aspirin, or may occur as a capsule or sold as a powder.

Immediate effects include a sense of euphoria, energy and altered sensory

perception.

Then there are the side effects.

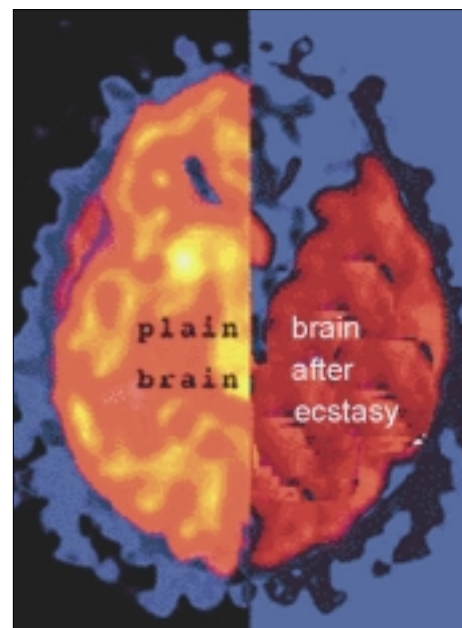
Current medical literature lists depression and panic disorders as some of the long-term effects. Acute short-term effects include water loss from sweating, high body temperature and loss of motor skills and judgment.

But drinking large amounts of water isn't a solution to the water loss problem caused by ecstasy abuse. A large intake of water to replace water loss from sweating and a higher body temperature can lead to a salt imbalance, and a trip to the emergency room.

This is a huge risk to one's health and safety for a drug "high." Why risk your health and safety, as well as the safety of others around you, to a drug that the Food and Drug Administration said has no medical treatment value, especially one that was produced in someone's basement?

No one in the Navy would trust their lives to somebody who wasn't at 100 percent efficiency because of some party drug. Everyone's job is too important to be compromised by drug abuse. When it comes to safety, staying away from ecstasy is a no-brainer.

The Department of Defense has been testing for "designer amphetamines" since 1997, and every sample that passes through the military testing laboratories gets screened for these types of drugs. More than 400 Navy and Marine Corps personnel were identified for ecstasy abuse in FY00.



Courtesy of the National Institute on Drug Abuse

The Navy and Marine Corps team has a "zero tolerance" policy for illegal drug use, and that includes ecstasy. Don't let it turn into your agony. If you're doing it, stop. If someone else is doing it, report the individual. Don't risk detection, punishment, or discharge under dishonorable or other than honorable conditions.

But don't just avoid it for those reasons, think of yourself and your shipmates. It's a matter of safety...their lives could be in your hands.

Thrift Savings Plan Offers Greater Opportunity to Save

By Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) — Military members will soon have the opportunity to add to their retirement savings with the start of the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) "open season" to begin this fall.

"The Navy decided to participate in the Thrift Savings Plan because it is the right thing to do for our military members," said Chief of Naval Personnel, Vice Adm. Norb Ryan.

Any member of the uniformed

services serving on active duty and any member of the Ready Reserve in any pay status may participate in the Thrift Savings Plan, a government retirement and investment program meant to encourage voluntary personal savings. TSP is not a replacement for the 20-year retirement plan already in place, but a supplemental investment plan similar to "401K" plans offered by civilian corporations.

The "open season," when Sailors will

be able to enroll, is 60 days long with the first scheduled "open season" to begin October 9, 2001 through December 8, 2001. Anyone already in the Navy that doesn't enroll during this period will have to wait for the next semi-annual 60-day "open season" to enroll. New accessions will be able to enroll during initial training. Active duty Sailors that take advantage of the

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Navy Reenlistment Rates Improving

By Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) — In recent testimony to the Senate Armed Services committee, Vice Adm. Norb Ryan, Chief of Naval Personnel, indicated that the Navy is making progress in efforts aimed at winning the “war for talent.”

According to Ryan, more Sailors are making the decision to “Stay Navy” as a result of “positive and personalized leadership, mentoring of juniors, and a variety of other targeted initiatives and programs.” These successes are evident in recent statistics showing significant increases in the numbers of Sailors reenlisting and fewer separating at the end of obligated service.

Thus far for the fiscal year, Navy reenlistment rates across all terms of service are up 6.4 percent from the same time last year. The increase in the number of Sailors who decide to reenlist can be attributed to the combined effects of leadership, involvement in professional

development, expanded reenlistment bonuses, enhanced special and incentive pays, increased advancement opportunity and significant quality of service improvements.

These gains have resulted primarily from reenlistments under the Selective Reenlistment Bonus (SRB) program, which continues to be the Navy’s most cost effective and successful retention and force-shaping tool. Retaining experienced and trained Sailors for longer periods of time increases stability in the force and lessens the requirement for new accessions. Based on these positive retention trends allowing a better balance between recruiting and retention efforts, the Navy recently reduced its FY01 recruiting accession mission by 1,348 to an overall goal of 55,000 accessions.

Beyond expanding the SRB program, the Navy’s recent retention investments

include efforts by the Center for Career Development in providing the fleet with the tools necessary to enhance retention efforts; the Detailer Communication Initiative, a proactive contact strategy where detailers initiate early and frequent contact with Sailors and their respective command career counselors to discuss future assignments and options; and increased enlisted advancement opportunity resulting from expanding authorization for mid-grade petty officers to more closely match fleet requirements.

“In order to maintain the momentum we have begun to observe in most areas,” said Ryan, “we need the support of Congress to continue leveraging our recent successes, capitalizing on the commitment of Navy leadership, innovative recruiting, and retention and attrition-reducing programs.”

For more information contact Cmdr. Betsy Bird at (703) 614-2000.

Navy Commissions Destroyer, USS Lassen

By Lt. j.g. Ivy Kupec, Naval Reserve Navy Information Bureau Detachment 206

TAMPA, Fla. (NNS) — More than 3,500 people attended the Navy’s ceremony to commission its 32nd Arleigh Burke-class destroyer, USS *Lassen* (DDG 82), on April 21 at the Florida Aquarium pier.

The ship is named for Vietnam War hero and Medal of Honor recipient Clyde E. Lassen, who was recognized throughout his career for risking his life and that of his crews to rescue two downed aviators while under fire at night in a severely damaged UH-2 Seasprite.

Repeatedly lauded for his courage, skill and dedication, Commander Lassen earned the Medal of Honor for his heroic rescue on June 19, 1968. Vice Adm. Edward Moore Jr., commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, who keynoted the ceremony, reflected on these qualities, noting that they will serve as a daily reminder to crew of the need for “brave, bold, relentless leadership” in the face of trying circumstances.

“Forty years ago, then-President

Kennedy challenged Americans to not ask what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country,” Moore said. “Clearly, this crew is heeding that call to service. We can see it in their faces.”

Following Moore during the program was one of the two downed aviators, who harkened back to the Vietnam conflict, the limited support from a nation where many questioned the war and the need for “keeping the faith.”

“The bad memories that people have from Vietnam are not a result of what any of our men did,” said retired Navy Capt. John Burns. “Rather, they are the recollection of what was done to our men.”

Linda Lassen, wife of the ship’s namesake, and Barbara O. Pilling, wife of retired Adm. Donald Pilling, former vice chief of naval operations, were also on hand as the ship’s sponsors, giving the order to “bring our ship to life.”

With a motto, “From Courage Life,” the USS *Lassen* set sail for her homeport in San Diego on Monday — two days after her commissioning and one day after more than 3,000 people toured the vessel.

Lassen will conduct sustained combat operations at sea and is capable of fighting air, surface and subsurface battles simultaneously. It is equipped with the AN/SPY-1D phased array radar, the most powerful air search radar in the Navy’s inventory.

The ship contains myriad offensive and defensive weapons designed to support maritime defense needs well into the 21st century.

Cmdr. Sean O’Connor, a native of Rumson, N.J., is *Lassen*’s commanding officer. The crew of 32 officers and 348 chiefs and enlisted personnel will operate the 513-foot-long ship, capable of reaching speeds in excess of 30 knots.

“Any Day in the Navy” Photo Shoot Now Underway

By the Navy Wire Service

WASHINGTON (NNS) — Each year, the Navy solicits photos from around the world for the special “Any Day in the Navy” issue of “All Hands” magazine. This year’s photo shoot will run during the entire month of May, and all hands are encouraged to participate.

The photo shoot is designed to capture quality photos of Sailors, Marines, Department of the Navy civilian employees, Naval Reservists and their family members at work and at play. The best photos will highlight those daily tasks that contribute to mission accomplishment and quality of life, and which show the richness of life in today’s Navy.

Photos should illustrate how Sailors and Marines “work, live and fight.”

Last year, “All Hands” received more than 1,300 outstanding photographs, and 80 of the best appeared in the October 2000 issue of the magazine. This year’s photo

shoot is being expanded and will run during the entire month of May to allow more time and flexibility, with the intent of receiving the broadest variety of photographs.

Selected images will be published in the October 2001 issue of “All Hands” magazine.

Maximum participation is encouraged from the fleet, as some of the best images can only be captured by other than official photographers.

Photos should reflect the diversity of both people and capabilities in the U.S. Navy and must be shot during the month of May 2001.

The best shots tend to be candid and unrehearsed, displaying the imagination and creativity of the photographer. Photos depicting quality of life, quality of service, retention and readiness themes will receive special consideration. Photos that contain safety or uniform regulation violations will not be used.

To be considered, photos

must be received at “All Hands” by June 15, 2001. Photos will not be returned.

Submit processed and mounted color slides or quality color prints, either 5x7 or 8x10 inches. Digital images will also be accepted with a minimum pixel size of 2000x1200 (approximately 5x7 at 300 dpi). Digital images can be submitted on a CD or 100 Mb zip disk with cutlines and photo credits embedded (CDs and zip disks will not be returned). Digital images can also be sent as .jpg files to the Chief of Information’s Navy Visual News Service at navynewsphoto@hq.navy.mil. The subject line for all such submissions should read: “Any Day submissions.”

The following caption information is required: Photographer’s name, rank and duty station (include mailing address and phone number). Photograph information should include

where the photo was taken (ship name, hull number, city, state, country, etc.), a description of what is happening in the photo, and information about the persons pictured, including first and last names, ranks/rates, warfare designations and hometowns. Captions must be attached individually to each photo or slide.

Submissions should be mailed to: “All Hands” magazine — Attn: Photo Editor, Naval Media Center, 2713 Mitscher Rd. SW, Anacostia Annex, DC, 20373-5819. Be sure to mark all packages: “Any Day submissions.”

Questions regarding the Any Day in the Navy photo shoot should be directed to the “All Hands” managing editor, JOCS(AW) Dave Desilets. Send e-mail to desilets@mediacen.navy.mil, or call DSN 288-2637, or (202) 433-2637.

Greenville, con’t. from pg. 1

and fire control technician of the watch. Adm. Fargo forwarded to the Submarine Force Pacific commander the court of inquiry’s recommendation the fire control technician be taken to captain’s mast by the *Greenville*’s commanding officer for dereliction in the performance of his duties. The investigation determined he failed to maintain a contact evaluation plot and failed to report a closing contact within 4,000 yards of *Greenville*. That contact turned out to be *Ehime Maru*. The others were

recommended by the court of inquiry to be admonished by the *Greenville* commanding officer.

“I have held Cmdr. Waddle and members of his crew accountable for their failures in the performance of their duties. Punishment has been awarded where appropriate,” Adm. Fargo said.

When asked about the impact of the 16 civilians on board *Greenville* that day, Adm. Fargo said, “The report is very clear that the civilians on board were not directly the cause of this collision. We’ve

had a distinguished visitors program, we’ve been embarking civilians in the Navy for 50 years. I think it’s important to our nation. We can do this safely and will do it safely.”

He added, “We will prevent accidents of this nature by respecting the importance of our responsibilities and the value of well-honed and time-tested operating procedures.”

As part of his action on the court of inquiry report, Adm. Fargo directed a case study on the accident be prepared and briefed to every Submarine Force Pacific

commanding officer and prospective commanding officer, and then used to train the officers of each ship of the force. He also ordered the watch team proficiency on *Greenville* be evaluated after the arrival of the newly reporting commanding officer.

All of this “will serve to remind all that no matter how apparently routine the mission, there is nothing about going to sea that is forgiving,” said Adm. Fargo.

The entire report can be viewed on the Pacific Fleet web site at <http://www.cpf.navy.mil>.

TSP, con't. from pg. 2

initial enrollment season will begin to see TSP deposits from their pay account on January 1, 2002.

In the past, TSP investments were limited to 5 percent of base pay, but recent changes in TSP law has increased the base pay investment limit to 6 percent in 2001 with a one percent increase every year until 2006 when the cap is eliminated. IRS law limits annual tax-deferred contributions to \$10,500 in 2001. Non-taxable contributions from Combat Zone Tax Exempt Pay and Hazardous Pay are not subject to the \$10,500 limit, however, IRS law does impose a limit of 25 percent or \$35,000 (which ever is less).

Service members will have five investment options to choose from. They vary in associated risk and anticipated percentage earnings. Sailors should be reminded that the TSP is a retirement account and the money can't normally be withdrawn, without penalty, until you reach the specified age (currently 59 1/2) in TSP law.

"I would encourage everyone who is financially able to take advantage of this initiative designed to help Sailors plan for their future," Ryan said. Like the civilian TSP program, military participation in TSP will be managed by the Federal Thrift Investment Board. The Navy's role will be

to help provide Sailors with information on the program, and to help them establish their initial TSP account through the appropriate personnel support office. Once their account has been established, members will correspond directly with National Finance Center in New Orleans to monitor and make investment changes to their TSP account.

For information on the Thrift Savings Plan and its benefits, go to the TSP web site at <http://www.tsp.gov>. Service members will also be receiving forms and educational materials to help them make informed choices during the open season.

In Naval History:

- May 7, 1942: Battle of the Coral Sea. Planes of the Japanese Carrier Strike Force sink the U.S. fleet oiler *Neosho* (AO 23) and destroyer *Sims* (DD 409), which they mistake for a carrier and a cruiser.

- May 8, 1942: Battle of the Coral Sea. American planes sink Japan's light carrier *Shoho* and damage the fleet carrier *Shokaku*, while a Japanese attack destroys the American carrier *Lexington* (CV 2). Japan's fleet carrier *Zuikaku* is ordered to retire and Japan's invasion force is recalled.

- May 9, 1966: First operational air-cushion craft. Three air-cushion patrol vehicles (PACVs), capable of more than 50 knots, join Operation Market Time off South Vietnam. They carry one .50-caliber machine gun. These are the first vessels of their kind to become operational in the U.S. Navy.

- May 10, 1776: John Paul Jones

receives his first independent command, the sloop *Providence*.

- May 11, 1898: Action at Cardenas. The torpedo boat *Winslow* (TB 5) runs into the harbor at Cardenas, Cuba, with the aim of cutting out one of three small Spanish gunboats tied up at the pier. Four men are killed in the attempt. Among the dead is Ensign Worth Bagley, the only naval officer killed in the Spanish-American War.

- May 12, 1918: Subchasers. The first six of the new, 110-foot, wooden-hulled, American subchasers reach the European war zone. Before the war's end, 121 of these little craft will be employed in British and French waters and in the Mediterranean.

- May 13, 1908: The Navy Nurse Corps is established.

Visit the Naval Historical Center web site at <http://www.history.navy.mil> for more information about naval history.

Navy/Marine Corps News

Look for the following stories and more on next week's Navy/Marine Corps News show:

- KUSI-TV News in San Diego talks with Adm. Vern Clark, Chief of Naval Operations, about his concerns and goals for the Navy;

- Sailors in Yorktown, Va., build and recondition torpedoes for the Navy's Atlantic Fleet submarine force;

- Find out what happens when enlisted Sailors trade places with officers and chiefs for a day;

- The San Diego Padres show their appreciation for San Diego-area Sailors with a special military appreciation day.

Compiled on tape #2001-19, the show is on its way to the fleet now.

NAVNEWS, a weekly publication containing stories of fleetwide interest, is an official product of the Naval Media Center.



NavNews can be accessed at: www.mediacen.navy.mil. E-mail story submissions to: pubs@mediacen.navy.mil or call NavNews at (703) 695-0911; DSN 225-0911.



Happy Mother's Day!